

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A butterfly needle (100) for venipuncture comprising

- a substantially cylindrical body (1) with two outwardly extending flexible tongues (2) that can be manually grasped and bent by the user from a diverging position to a converging position, and

- a needle (9) mounted axially in the head of a needle-carrier (3) coupled to said body (1) so that the needle (9) protrudes forward from said body (1), said needle-carrier having a tail (8) protruding rearward from said body (1) to couple with the connection of a flexible tube intended to be connected to a syringe or bottle,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

said needle-carrier device (3) is mounted so as to slide axially inside the body (1) to pass from a forward position of use wherein the needle (9) protrudes forward from said body (1) to perform the injection to a retracted position of safety in which the needle (9) is protected inside said body (1), there being provided:

- guide means (13, 33) able to guide the axial movement of said needle-carrier (3) inside said body (1) and

- end-of-stroke and locking means (18, 17, 36) able to lock said needle-carrier in said forward position and in said retracted position.

2. (currently amended) A butterfly needle (100) according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein spring means (4) are disposed

inside said body (1), between a collar (12) of said body (1) and an abutment surface (32) of said needle-carrier (3), said spring means (4) being loaded when said needle-carrier is in the forward position of use.

3. (currently amended) A butterfly needle (100) according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said spring means comprise a spiral spring (4) disposed around a front part (30) of said needle-carrier, having a smaller diameter than a central part (31) of said needle-carrier.

4. (currently amended) A butterfly needle (100) according to ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein said guide means comprise a longitudinal slot (13) formed in the body (1) and a substantially cylindrical nib (33) which protrudes radially outward from the needle-carrier (3) to be able to slide within said longitudinal slot.

5. (currently amended) A butterfly needle (100) according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said longitudinal slot (13) is defined by a front abutment surface (14) and a rear narrowing (15; 115) able to block said nib (33) when the needle-carrier (3) is in the forward position of use and the retracted position of safety, respectively.

6. (currently amended) A butterfly needle (100) according to claim 4, ~~or 5, characterised in that~~ wherein said end-of-stroke and locking means comprise a manual operating device (34) comprising a hollow cylinder (35) rotatably mounted on said needle-carrier (3) and an operating lever (36) protruding radially from said cylinder (35) and protruding outward from said longitudinal slot (13) to be able to be operated manually by the user, so as to lock said needle-carrier, when it is respectively in the forward position of use and in the retracted position of safety.

7. (currently amended) A butterfly needle (100) according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said longitudinal slot (13) has a front recess (18) at the front, suitable to receive said manual operating lever (36) to lock the needle-carrier in the forward position of use and a rear recess (17) able to receive said manual operating lever (36) to lock the needle-carrier (3) in the retracted safety position.

8. (currently amended) A butterfly needle (100) according to claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said manual operating device (34) is disposed behind said nib (33), said operating lever (36) has a smaller thickness than said narrowing (15) and said rear locking recess (17) is disposed behind said narrowing (15).

9. (currently amended) A butterfly needle (100) according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 8, characterised in that~~ claim 5, wherein said body (1) comprises at least one flexible tongue (116) disposed obliquely in the rear part of said longitudinal slot (13) so that the free end (119) of said tongue is disposed opposite said narrowing (115) to lock said nib (33) of the needle-carrier in abutment between the narrowing (115) and the free end (119) of the flexible tongue, when the needle-carrier is in the retracted position of safety.

10. (currently amended) A butterfly needle (100) according to claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said at least one flexible longitudinal tongue (116) is formed by means of a longitudinal cut (117) on said body (1).